

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in this application (in the unlikely event that no claims follow herein, the previously pending claims will remain):

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for the separation of waste constituents from matrices, comprising:

(i) ~~a vessel having an interior for receiving matrices, said vessel comprising a~~  
frame adapted to receive one or more removable trays;

(ii) one or more removable trays adapted to be inserted in said frame, said one or more removable trays comprising a bottom part and peripheral sidewalls extending therefrom, said bottom part being capable of supporting said matrices and being structured so as to define orifices in said bottom, said one or more removable trays having a loading capacity of at least about 2.5 cubic yards;

(iii) a manifold for removal of gases emerging from said matrices, said manifold being positioned on top of said vessel; and

~~(iii iv) a means for heating said interior, said means for heating being~~ heater, said heater being positioned in a manner to allow heat to enter said vessel at a position below said one or more removable trays when inserted in said frame.

2. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a means for generating a vacuum for withdrawing said gases through said manifold, said means for generating a vacuum being connected to said manifold.

3-6. (Cancelled).

7. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said bottom part is a screen.

8. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said bottom part is slotted.

9-10. (Cancelled).

11. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said one or more removable trays have fork lift pockets.

12. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a means for mechanically agitating matrices, said means for mechanically agitating being positioned in said interior and connected to said vessel.

13. (Cancelled).

14. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said manifold comprises a heat resistant gasket touching said vessel.

15. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said manifold contains a 1 to 100 micron dry filter.

16. (Cancelled).

17. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, comprising between 1 and 4 of said removable trays.

18. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said apparatus is permanently mounted.

19. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said manifold is not attached to said vessel.

20-35. (Cancelled).

36. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said apparatus is mobile.

37. (Cancelled).

38. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said apparatus comprises a hydraulic ~~eylinder~~ system, said hydraulic ~~eylinder~~ system being positioned under said manifold and being capable of lifting said manifold from said vessel.

39. (Cancelled).

40. (New) An apparatus for the separation of waste constituents from matrices, comprising:

- (i) a vessel having
  - (a) a heater base, said heater base including one or more tray receptacles;
  - (b) a multiplicity of heaters or heat emitter tubes mounted in said heater base; and
- (ii) a manifold for removal of gases emerging from said matrices, said manifold being positioned over said heater base;
- (iii) one or more removable trays adapted for insertion in said tray receptacles at a position between said multiplicity of heaters and said manifold, said one or more removable trays having
  - (a) a bottom part, said bottom part being capable of supporting said matrices and being structured so that orifices are defined in said bottom part, and
  - (b) peripheral sidewalls extending from said bottom part;

wherein, upon insertion of said one or more removable trays in said tray receptacles, peripheral sidewalls of said one or more removable trays effectively form the sides of said vessel.

41. (New) The apparatus of claim 40, further comprising a means for generating a vacuum for withdrawing said gases through said manifold, said means for generating a vacuum being connected to said manifold.

42. (New) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein said bottom part is a screen.

43. (New) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein said trays have a loading capacity of at least about 2.5 cubic yards.

44. (New) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein said one or more removable trays have fork lift pockets.

45. (New) The apparatus of claim 40, comprising 1 to 4 of said removable trays.